

the leadership in Congress: to pass tax cuts and reconciliation bills that actually worsen the deficit, all the while doing nothing to address the long-term fiscal picture of entitlement spending.

As an appropriator, I recognize that tough decisions have to be made. However, the policy choices of this administration have put Members of this body in the position of having to vote on the elimination of health programs for the poorest and sickest of Americans and for cuts to education programs for low-income students. I reject that choice and believe we must rebalance our priorities.

The choice we should be making today is to improve our healthcare safety net, to fully fund our schools, and to help American workers find the path to financial independence and economic stability.

This conference report fails Americans on all those fronts, and I urge my colleagues to reject it.

• **Mrs. BOXER.** Mr. President, I strongly oppose the fiscal year 2006 Labor-HHS appropriations conference report because it undermines many of our Nation's highest priorities and jeopardizes our most vulnerable citizens and communities.

We have all heard the dire warnings about the avian flu pandemic. We know that we need to invest adequate resources to develop vaccines, stockpile medicines, and better prepare at the local, State, and Federal levels. That is why the Senate passed Senator HARKIN's amendment. Yet this conference report left out those vital funds and, in doing so, left us far less equipped to deal with a pandemic.

We know we must invest in the critical research that uncovers the secrets behind our greatest killers, saving the health and lives of our citizens. Yet this bill increases funding for the National Institutes of Health, NIH, by less than one percent, the smallest increase since 1970. Make no mistake: this will lead to cuts in the number of new research grants funded by NIH.

We know we have to invest in the education of our children at every level of schooling. We know our school districts, and our children, are being asked to meet tougher standards. Yet this conference report cuts education for the first time in a decade. No Child Left Behind, NCLB, programs have been cut 3 percent, now leaving them \$13 billion below the authorized level. Fewer children will be served by after-school programs, which keep our children safe after school and improve their academic performance. At a time when the costs of college are skyrocketing, this bill once again freezes Pell grants, which help low-income students afford a college education.

Now, this bill doesn't just cut critical funds; it also adds provisions that endanger our neediest citizens. None is more troubling to me than the Weldon amendment. I am extremely disappointed that the conference report rejected the real conscience clause in

the Senate bill and instead included the House bill's sweeping and dangerous refusal clause.

Unlike the Senate language authored by Senator SPECTER and Senator HARKIN, the provision in this conference report is not a conscience clause. It never mentions religion or morals. It forces States to choose between losing billions of dollars in funding or enforcing Federal and State laws ensuring reproductive health information and services for women. And it could have devastating consequences, including further endangering women in emergency situations, allowing doctors to be gagged, hurting victims of rape and incest, and seriously undermining state sovereignty.

Mr. President, if we want to really meet the great challenges we face in our country, we must reject this bill. The American people deserve better and we, as Senators, can certainly do better.●

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

HONORING CARL W. SMITH

• **Mr. ALLEN.** Today I would like to honor a great man, Mr. Carl W. Smith, a native of Wise, VA, and a resident of Charlottesville, VA, who, sadly, passed away earlier this week.

Carl Smith was a truly wonderful leader for Virginia, and my wife Susan and I were deeply saddened to learn of the passing of our friend. His lovely wife Hunter and his children Carl, Stuart, and Hunter, will remain in our thoughts and prayers, as will their loved ones during this time of great sorrow.

Throughout his life, Carl was a truly special, invigorating friend and remarkable, insightful leader who was always a lap ahead of everyone else. I will always appreciate his discreet advice, his impressive perspective and his strong support. And I will be forever grateful for his trusted friendship that helped me win elections to become a Delegate and, later, Governor of Virginia.

Like me, Carl attended the University of Virginia, when he played football. After graduating, he served in the U.S. Army and worked as an investment banker. Just last year, Carl retired as head of AMVEST Corporation, a diversified energy and finance corporation based in Charlottesville that he founded in 1961. Throughout his successful career, Carl was the best, most loyal fan of the University of Virginia Cavaliers, and his generosity to his beloved alma mater and all those in his life was boundless. He donated millions of dollars to advance Virginia's academic, athletic and arts programs, and to support the construction and preservation of its facilities. He also served on the Board of Visitors for 8 years. Carl was known for his business savvy but also for his loyalty, his kindness and his sense of humor.

Susan and I grieve with Carl's dear wife Hunter and their family over this heart-aching loss. May God continue to bless Virginia and America with people of Carl W. Smith's unflinching character.●

REMEMBERING CLIFFORD BROWN AND LARUE BROWN WATSON

• **Mr. BIDEN.** Mr. President, October 30, 2005, marked the 75th birthday of Clifford Benjamin Brown, one of this Nation's great jazz musicians. Born into a large, middle-class, African-American family in Wilmington, DE, Clifford Brown was the youngest of eight children and inherited his love and passion for music from his father, Joe Brown. He began to show interest in the trumpet at a young age, and by the time he turned 12, he was engaged in private lessons. He attended Howard High School in Wilmington, where he was encouraged to play music by ear. He studied math at the University of Delaware and music at Maryland State College.

His career as a jazz trumpeter was monumental. He performed alongside such music legends as Miles Davis and Fats Navarro, while combining his sounds and style with those of Art Farmer, Dizzy Gillespie and Dinah Washington. Clifford played in Chris Powell's Blue Flames Band and the Brown-Roach Quintet. Sadly, Clifford Brown's promising and extraordinary career was tragically cut short when a car accident took his life on June 26, 1956. He was only 25 years old.

But the legacy of Clifford Brown extended far beyond his years through the efforts of his wife LaRue, whom he had married in 1954. LaRue helped to launch the Los Angeles Jazz Heritage Foundation's program which served underprivileged children, and founded the Clifford Brown Jazz Foundation.

LaRue Brown Watson passed away on Sunday, October 2, 2005 at the age of 72. She is survived by her children, Clifford Brown, Jr., Adrienne Traywick and Brian Watson, her son-in-law Clarence Traywick, and many grandchildren, cousins, nieces, nephews and friends.

Today, I stand and lead the Senate in paying tribute to the life of the great Clifford Brown and in lamenting the passing of his widow, LaRue Brown Watson.●

TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT MAJOR FRANK YOAKUM

• **Mr. BOND.** Mr. President, I rise to honor SGM Frank Yoakum, who serves as the enlisted congressional, liaison for the Chief, National Guard Bureau. Sergeant Major Yoakum is the only enlisted legislative liaison in the Army, facilitating communication flow between the Army National Guard, National Guard Bureau, and elected officials on Capitol Hill, as well as their staffs and professional committee staff. He is on the personal staff of the Chief, National Guard Bureau.